

NONPOINT SOURCE TIMES

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EPA Awards \$700,000 for Watershed Program

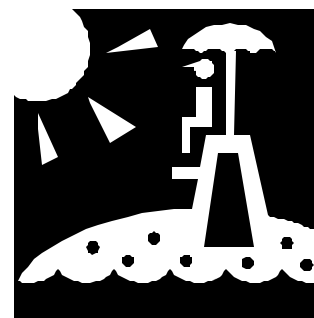
EPA Awards \$700,000 For Maine Watershed Program
on Meduxnekeag River BOSTON

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced a \$700,000 grant for projects in the Meduxnekeag watershed in Eastern Maine. The grant will be used by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, working with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Town of Houlton, and the Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District, to improve water quality in the Meduxnekeag watershed, a tributary of the St. John River.

The grant is among nearly \$15 million of grants awarded today to 20 watershed organizations across the country as part of the agency's new Watershed Initiative and is one of three awarded in New England.

Today's (Friday May 2, 2003) announcement comes one year after President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, asked the nation's governors and tribal leaders to submit proposals to support community-based approaches to clean up the nation's watersheds. This year Congress appropriated \$15 million of the President's original \$20 million request. "This national competition for these Watershed Initiative grants generated a tor-

(Continued on page 2)



Phase I of Watershed Project

**Salmon/McGrath Pond &
East Pond Watershed
Project**

Introduction: The Salmon/McGrath Pond and East Pond Watersheds Phase I Project is an example of a very successful and effective project. The Phase I project was implemented by the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District staff from June 2000 to January 2002. The approach taken by the district was to intensely focus on fixing up multiple sites in targeted areas through a combination of outreach and education and technical assistance/cost share for BMP implementation. During Phase I the district focused on fixing camp, town and state roads; as well as

(Continued on page 7)

Inside This Issue

Maine Rivers—A New Organization	2
EPA Recognizes 8 from Maine	3
Stream Team Update	5
Highlights & Suggestions to Improve Watershed Surveys	6
3rd National NPS I & E Conference	9
Stormwater Management in Cold Climates	10
Clean Air Acts Reduces Acid Rain	11
Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants	12
Milfoil Summit	13
Portage Lake Honored By EPA for Watershed Work	14
Calendar & Resources Available	15



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This will help save the state money on postage and printing, (your tax dollars). Plus you will get your issue more timely.

Thanks for your help.

(Continued from page 1)

rent of outstanding proposals," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, who announced the winners today in New Jersey. "EPA is very excited to commit significant federal dollars to support these top watershed efforts, all of which will serve as national models for other communities to follow."

Selected from among more than 176 nominations, the Houlton Band will use the funds for two major projects in the watershed. The first project will reduce soil erosion and improve water quality by providing information and funding for farmers in the watershed to adopt crop rotation practices. This involves planting a combination of spring varieties of small grain winter cover crops on potato fields harvested earlier in the season and mulching fields harvested later in the season. Improving soil quality also improves crop yields which will offer farmers an added benefit by implementing these practices. The second project will search for and correct sewer connections in the Town of Houlton that may be leaking raw sewage into the river.

"The Meduxnekeag project has clear goals, a focused approach, and the strong promise of real environmental benefits over the next two years," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator for EPA's New England Office. "EPA is proud to be able to fund this work and join the strong partnership to make a cleaner river for the Maliseets and everyone in the region." "The Meduxnekeag is very important to the tribe and to the community," said Tony Tomah, natural resources director for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. "This grant is going to help us and our partners make real improvements that will benefit the whole watershed."

"The waterways of Maine are among our most important resources," said Maine Governor John Baldacci. "I'm very pleased that, thanks to this grant, we'll be able to enhance the Meduxnekeag. This project should provide benefits in near future and for generations to come." ###

Maine Rivers A new Organization

MAINE RIVERS LAUNCHED WITH FORMER MPR REPORTER
NAOMI SCHALIT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Augusta - Maine Rivers, begun in 1998 as a project of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, has been launched as an independent organization, and has hired Naomi Schalit, former Maine Public Radio reporter, as its first executive director.

"We had dozens of applicants for this position," said Bill Townsend, president of the Maine Rivers board of directors, "and we chose Naomi because of her passion for the environment, her knowledge of the issues that concern us, and her ability to communicate that passion and concern. We look forward to working with her to pursue our goal of collaborating with citizens and policymakers to restore, sustain and enhance the health and vitality of Maine's rivers."

"While much has been done over the last thirty years to clean up our rivers, we should not be content to stop where we are," said Townsend. "Naomi understands that healthy flows are essential for our rivers; thriving migratory fish runs should not simply be a memory from the past; and that dams, while an important source of energy, also have hidden long-term costs in their impact on water quality and quantity."

"The growth of Maine Rivers demonstrates the importance of Maine's 32,000 miles of rivers and streams," said Brownie Carson, executive director of the Natural Resources Council. "River protection is often organized in local communities or in a single watershed. Maine Rivers will help local watershed groups share their successes and challenges. We are excited about working with them on issues of statewide importance."

Schalit, 45, of Damariscotta Mills, said, "there are very few jobs for which I would have left Maine Public Radio. Working for Maine Rivers is the opportunity of a lifetime. I have a particular interest in, and love for Maine's rivers. I live next to the headwaters of the Damariscotta River. I have rafted the Penobscot, paddled a canoe down the St. John, and stood in chest waders in the St. Croix. Our rivers have played a major role in defining our culture, history, commerce, transportation routes, and most importantly, they have provided a diversity of life that is exceptional. It is that diversity and abundance that I want to help restore and protect."

(Continued on page 4)



8 Recognized from Maine for Environmental Merit Awards

EPA Celebrates Earth Day by Recognizing Eight from Maine
With Environmental Merit Awards BOSTON-

In honor of Earth Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England Office today (April 22, 2003) recognized eight individuals and organizations from Maine with Environmental Merit Awards, including a lifetime achievement award for three Maine employees.

The awards, given out since 1970, honor individuals and groups who have shown particular ingenuity and commitment in their efforts to preserve the region's environment. This year's competition drew nearly 100 nominations from across New England. "The individuals and groups we are honoring today are New England's real environmental heroes," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator for EPA's New England Office. "Often with little fanfare, they have invested huge amounts of their time to make New England's environment cleaner and safer for future generations. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude."

The winners from Maine were among 40 from across New England. Awards were given in the categories of individual; business (including professional organizations); local, state or federal government; and environmental, community, academia or nonprofit organization. Also, for the first time, special lifetime achievement awards were presented this year.

**"Lifetime Achievement
Awards: David
Courtemanch, Susan
Davies, and Leon
Tsomides."**

Winners from Maine were: Lifetime Achievement Awards: David Courtemanch, Susan Davies and Leon Tsomides, Maine Department of Environmental Protection David Courtemanch, Susan Davies and Leon Tsomides of the Maine DEP have devoted their careers to developing a biological monitoring program. The program assesses the health of rivers and streams by evaluating the composition of resident biological communities, rather than directly measuring the chemical or physical qualities of the water, such as dissolved oxygen levels or concentrations of toxic contaminants. Evaluating benthic organisms integrates the full range of environmental influences and act as continuous monitors of environmental quality. Courtemanch, Davies and Tsomides worked with EPA biologists and many other biologists across the country to come up with specific numeric criteria for measuring the biology of rivers and streams. In place since 1983, this biological assessment work now includes more than 600 monitoring stations on 150 rivers and streams across Maine. Maine has a national reputation as a leader among states in the scientific field of biological monitoring and criteria development, bringing credit to the New England region as well as Maine. The Maine biomonitoring program serves as a shining example to other state environmental programs.

Individual Awards: Robert Miville, Chelsea, Maine Robert Miville, owner of Aable Auto Parts, helped the Maine Department of Environmental Protection embark on the state's first-in-the-nation manufacturer take-back program of automobile mercury switches. The program, mandated this year under state law, helped prevent the release of an estimated 1,500 pounds of mercury in Maine. Miville was one of the industry leaders from the Maine Auto Recyclers Association who helped get the legislation approved. He also volunteered last

(Continued on page 4)

Updated Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection

Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection <<http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>> - An updated version of the Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection is now available on-line as a searchable, Web site. This Web site provides information for watershed practitioners on 84 Federal funding sources that might be available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects (Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds) <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/index.html>>.

National Conference on Urban Stormwater

Papers from the "National Conference on Urban Stormwater: Enhancing Programs at the Local Level" (held in Chicago in February) have been posted on EPA's NPS website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/natlstormwater03/index.html>



(Continued from page 3)

year to be the spokesperson for a video explaining why the removal of the switches was important and how to do it. The video has received national acclaim and has been used for training and information sessions across the state.

Organizations Merryspring Nature Park, Camden/Rockport, Maine Merryspring Nature Park is a 66-acre nature and horticultural park on coastal Maine. Since acquiring the land in 1973, the park has grown and developed to include a system of hiking and nature trails, a managed and labeled arboretum and a central garden area park. In 1996, Merryspring added a building with an office, meeting space, a library and a classroom. It hosts an adult education program, a summer ecology camp and an environmental education program for elementary students. Merryspring created the latter program last year, which is the focus of today's award, so children and teachers could take advantage of all of the park and building spaces for nature education. The idea was to give schools access to a free enriched science and ecology curriculum. During its first year, the program provided more than 2,500 on-site student hours, in addition to 32 adult ed classes, 30 lectures and a five-day ecology camp. All of the classes emphasize what Maine native species and their ecosystems require to thrive.

Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association, Jefferson, Maine The Damariscotta Watershed Association has established a water quality monitoring program in the three basins that make up the seven-square-mile lake. The association has also been working with state and local agencies since 1995 to solve specific erosion and sedimentation problems. In addition to creating a website to inform the public about the lake, an education committee provides scholarships for children as well as a quarterly newsletter with detailed information on needs, duties and available efforts from volunteers, of which there are about 500. The association has also acquired land around the lake to help act as a protective buffer. By working with the local road commissioner, the association minimizes the impact of road work on Lake Damariscotta.

Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, Nobleboro, Maine The Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute (MLCI), a nonprofit environmental education organization, was founded in 1999 to address the lack of attention being paid to the protection and importance of Maine's 5,800 lakes. Shippen Bright, who had served on former Governor McKernan's Great Pond Task Force, started the institute to improve public awareness of the state's lake resources, with particular attention being focused on Maine's young people. MLCI's signature program is its floating classroom, a 30-foot pontoon boat where staff members conduct hands-on ecology investigations. MLCI has nine partner middle schools representing the cultural and geographic diversity of Maine - from Eagle Lake at the northern tip of Maine, to

Indian Township on the Passamaquoddy Reservation in eastern Maine to the Bonny Eagle Middle School southwest of Portland. Another priority is to engage the public in understanding the importance of lakes to the state economy. A 1997 report from the University of Maine George J. Mitchell Center, for example, estimated that the state's lakes contribute \$6 billion to the economy, more than Bath Iron Works, the state's largest employer. ###

(Continued from page 2)

Schalit has been a reporter for almost two decades, working for the last five years at Maine Public Radio, where she specialized in stories about natural resources, winning both national and statewide awards. Prior to her career in journalism, she worked with non-profit advocacy groups in California, as a fundraiser, administrator and board member.

While Maine has traditionally been home to a number of statewide environmental groups, and a growing number of local watershed groups, until Maine Rivers formed there was no statewide organization that directly advocated for the state's rivers. In the last few years, the organization, run by a volunteer board of directors, has successfully advocated for state water withdrawal policies that protect the ecology of Maine's rivers; forged alliances with watershed protection groups across the state; and run citizen workshops on water quality and river re-classification from Aroostook County down to Saco.

"Hand in hand with the policy and river protection work that awaits us," said Maine Rivers board President Townsend, "we must now begin the task of building an organization. Working cooperatively with grassroots organizations across Maine, as well as local, state and federal agencies, we intend to become a strong and effective advocate for Maine's rivers."

Maine Rivers' office is housed in the Natural Resource Council of Maine's headquarters, 3 Wade Street, in Augusta. Recent funding for Maine Rivers has come from Atlantic Salmon Federation, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Margaret B. Burnham Charitable Trust, Clarence and Anne Dillon Dunwalke Trust, Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Natural Resources Council of Maine, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Sasco Foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Anna Marie and John E. Thron Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, and Tom's of Maine.

Update on Maine Stream Team Program

The Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP) has been in existence for three years and it is continuing to evolve every day. To date, 54 teams have registered with the program. Groups from all around the state have been getting involved in stream education, monitoring, clean-up, and other stewardship projects. Although the MSTP has provided some guidance and assistance to many of these groups, it is the stream team volunteers themselves who have been initiating many of the above-mentioned projects and donating much of their valuable spare time and energy. Since there are approximately 33,000 miles of streams and rivers in the State of Maine, any assistance provided by these volunteers is greatly appreciated!

A number of MSTP co-sponsored events have taken place within the last year. Last year, the MSTP co-sponsored a workshop at the University of Maine-Augusta entitled "The STEP Institute: Strengthening Environmental Group Process", which focused on issues related to fundraising, capacity building, working with volunteers and advisory committees, and strategic planning. Co-sponsors of that workshop included the Maine Shore Stewards program, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension program, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and the Maine State Planning Office.

In March of this year, the MSTP co-sponsored an event at Bowdoin College in Brunswick entitled "Maine Stream Summit 2003" or "the MESS 2003". Co-sponsors of that event included Bowdoin College, the University of Maine, the Maine Stewardship Alliance, and Field Geology Services. The Summit kicked off with a presentation by Don Sprangers and some of his students at Washington Academy in East Machias. These students were the first place winners of the 2002 National Youth Watershed Summit and they spoke about some of their efforts to protect and restore Atlantic salmon habitat on the Dennys River. Other presentations were made by speakers from Maine Rivers, the Great Works River Watershed Coalition, Portland Water District, Presumpscot River Watch, and the University of Maine, as well as by

"..54 teams have registered with the program. Groups all around the state have been getting involved"



students and teachers from Bonney Eagle High School, Windham Middle School, Saco Middle School, and Hall-Dale Middle School. Afternoon workshops focused on topics such as basic stream ecology; macroinvertebrate sampling and identification; rainfall, runoff, and flow; microbial source tracking; monitoring physical habitat and channel change along streams; how to deal with data; and a case study of the impacts of urbanization on two southern

(Continued on page 6)

Healthy Communities Grant Program

The Healthy Communities Grant Program (HCGP) integrates nine EPA New England programs – Assistance & Pollution Prevention: Schools Sector, Asthma, Children's Environmental Health, Community Air Toxics, Pesticides, Smart Growth, Tools for Schools, Toxics, and the Urban Environmental Program working in partnership to best identify competitive projects that will achieve measurable environmental and human health improvements in communities across New England. The Healthy Communities Grant Program is EPA New England's main grant program to work directly with communities to reduce environmental risks to protect and improve human health and the quality of life. The HCGP will achieve this through identifying and funding projects that:

Target resources to benefit communities at risk & sensitive populations. Assess, understand, and reduce environmental and human health risks. Increase collaboration through community-based projects. Build institutional and community capacity to understand and solve environment and human health problems. Achieve measurable environment and human health benefits.

FMI <http://www.epa.gov/ne/grants/healthycommunities.html>



(Continued from page 5)

Maine streams. Plans have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that the MESS 2004 will be held somewhere in the Bangor-Orono region. If you would like to get involved with organizing that event, please contact the MSTP.



In addition to workshops and summits, the MSTP has helped a number of groups conduct "stream habitat walks" in their watersheds. Stream habitat walks are surveys of habitat status and potential threats (e.g., nonpoint source pollution, channel modifications, etc.) to local streams. These surveys are designed for volunteers and a heavy emphasis is placed on them as educational opportunities. Additionally, the information gleaned from these surveys can help guide local planning efforts. Generally, these stream habitat walks begin with a training session provided by the MSTP, and they often involve technical leaders who work with volunteer sub-groups to help ensure consistency between surveys. Past workshops have been held for groups in the Great Works River (N. Berwick), Davis Stream (with the Damariscotta Lake Watershed), Eddie Brook (Bar Harbor), St. George River (Searsmont), Sheepscot River (Palermo), and the Union River (Amherst) watersheds. Additionally, groups from the Androscoggin Land Trust, Bonny Eagle High School, Portland High School, Windham Middle School, and the Auburn Land Lab have participated. Generally, when schools participate in these events, it is recommended that the students who get involved are doing so voluntarily rather than as a part of an assignment in order to insure that high quality information is gathered. Stream habitat walks planned for 2003 include Mill Brook (Falmouth), Great Works River (N. Berwick), Trout Brook (S. Portland), and the Union River (Hancock County), as well as with the Thompson Lake and Damariscotta Lake Watershed Associations.

To have your name added to the MSTP newsletter mailing list, to get involved, or if you have questions, contact Jeff Varricchione, coordinator of the MSTP, a program of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, at 822-6317 or < mstp@maine.gov >.

Highlights and suggestions for improving Watershed Surveys

On March 31, 2003 the annual Watershed Partners Review was held with staff from various Soil & Water Conservation Districts, environmental associations and Maine DEP to share ideas for conducting watershed survey projects. The following are the tips and suggestions for conducting better surveys:

HotSpot Program:

GIS data on soils, slope and land use can be used to generate 'Hot Spots' maps and identify areas with potential erosion problems. Oxford County SWCD and LEA attempted to use a Hot Spots map in the summer of 2002 to identify erosion sites on Keoka Lake, and had somewhat disappointing results. Although the maps helped focus their survey efforts, the data used to identify hotspots was 10 years old so that they missed sites. They found most of the sites using the traditional survey process, by walking all the developed areas in the watershed. They didn't seem to get as much community support as they have when doing traditional watershed surveys.

Survey training tips:

Recruiting volunteers – seems the phone is the easiest way to get commitment and to get them to show. Give steering committee members a 'phone script' to make sure all the necessary information is conveyed.

The watershed survey volunteer training PowerPoint slide show has been updated. If you would like a copy, contact Wendy Garland at 822-6320 or Wendy.Garland@maine.gov. Sample data collection forms, volunteer recruitment notices and phone scripts, press releases, reports, and other resources are also available.

Tax Maps – give copies to volunteers and write the owners names on the map, makes it easier for the volunteers to link the erosion problem with the correct property and it's also less paper for them to handle.

Site Sketch for survey – suggestion to have volunteers draw existing site features in black and use red for where

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 1)

commercial sites. Although East Pond was included in the project, this project primarily focused on Salmon/McGrath Pond. East Pond was only a small part of this project and was included to initiate further work in this watershed so this article will discuss the project on Salmon/McGrath Pond.

The article begins with background information on the lakes and explains the framework for implementation. A discussion of what was accomplished in the project is then provided. The last part provides conclusions and explains what is planned for phase II of the project.

Background: Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond are two separate bodies of water connected by a short thoroughfare, but may be referred to as Salmon/McGrath Pond (in this project) or McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake. They are part of the Belgrade Chain of Lakes-McGrath Pond flows to Salmon Lake and then to Great Pond. Salmon/McGrath Pond's watershed is located in the towns of Oakland and Belgrade. It has a surface area of 1152 acres and a direct drainage area of 6.92 square miles.

Salmon lake had impaired water quality and experienced algal blooms for a number of years, primarily due to historical agricultural sources. Although it has not had an algal bloom for several years, water quality continues to be of concern due to high phosphorus levels and low dissolved oxygen levels. The water quality of McGrath Pond is considered to be slightly above average. Both ponds are listed on the NPS Priority Waterbody list.

A watershed survey was completed by Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management staff and the McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association in 1998. The survey identified 131 nonpoint source sites. The breakdown of land use types and percent of sites are as follows. Residential sites were 39% and driveways 16% of the sites, for a total of 55%. Private roads were 27% with state and town roads 8%, together accounting for 35% of the sites. The remaining 10% of sites included commercial at 8% and other 2%. Half of the 131 sites identified in the survey were rated by the survey team as being medium or high priority sites. Assignment to low, medium or high priority is based on size of contributing disturbed area; proximity to the lake, tributary or drainage way, slope and soil type.

The McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association as well as the other lake associations in the Belgrade Chain of Lakes are very active in lake water quality monitoring and protection. Beyond activity at the lake association level, the associations came together and formed the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance allowing for all of the lake associations to work together on issues of joint concern and share resources. A primary activity of the regional group

was to initiate and support a regional Conservation Corps. Since then the Alliance hired a Resource Specialist to carry out nonpoint source 319 projects throughout the watershed. That person is now the Executive Director coordinating both land conservation efforts and water resource protection/restoration. The Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District is also involved in working on nonpoint source projects and providing technical assistance to the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

Phase I Project: The intent of the first phase of the project was to "foster intensive implementation of BMPs on identified sites." This was accomplished through targeted outreach and education, targeted BMP implementation, and Belgrade Conservation Corp involvement. Outreach and education included an initial press release and a later article in the local newspaper. Instrumental to success of the project was the KCSWCD close working relationship with the McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association which was very active and supportive of the project. Through the life of the project staff attended board meetings, provided articles for their newsletter, and also provided a presentation at the annual meeting. The second part of the outreach and education was workshops held at two camp roads (one in Belgrade and one in Oakland) covering NPS pollution, camp road problems, and shoreline erosion and buffers. The workshops were well attended and proved to be an effective way to reach and educate landowners.

The implementation part of the project focused on targeting roads and commercial sites allowing for multiple sites at each of the areas to be fixed. The areas included 5 private roads, town road, state road, commercial cottages, and municipal park. A total of 30 medium and high priority sites were fixed. Implementation BMPs on the five private roads included fixing road surfaces by bringing in new material, incorporating geotextile and crowning/shaping. Turnouts and ditches were installed and stabilized as well as culverts installed and armored. The town and state road included work on ditches and turnouts, and installation of settling basins. The municipal park was a former campground and at this site a road was closed off and settling basin and ditches installed to handle runoff from a large open area. At the commercial cottage site, the access road was fixed, shoreline and bank stabilized, and exposed areas mulched. In addition to the BMP implementation that the Soil and Water Conservation District completed, they also coordinated with the Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps. The Corps implemented projects at 8 sites to include buffer plantings, riprap, and culvert armoring. Twenty sites completed by the KCSWCD had pollution reduction calculations completed on them. The other sites did not lend themselves to having pollution load reduction calculated because they are primarily runoff control

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

structures or vegetation. The estimate of load reduction for the 20 sites was 43, 451 lbs./yr. of sediment.

Conclusions and next steps: The Salmon/McGrath Pond project was successful in reaching its goal of significantly reducing NPS pollution through BMP implementation. A total of 38 high and medium priority sites were fixed resulting in sediment load reduction of over 40,000 lbs. Beyond fixing the identified sites, addressing the roads will prevent future problem sites and alleviate runoff issues affecting residential shoreline areas. The project was also successful in its outreach and education efforts. Through the workshops, a large number of landowners were educated on NPS pollution and their role in protecting the lake. Initial implementation work with the Towns also helped on educating the Towns and will allow for further work with the towns during phase II. The formula employed by the KCSWCD working closely with the lake association and focusing BMP implementation efforts was an effective method for this implementation project. The next phase of the Salmon/McGrath Pond Project will begin this summer. The first part of the project will be to update the watershed survey by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. Another 30 medium and high priority sites are targeted for BMP implementation including road and commercial sites again. Residential shoreline and driveway sites will also be targeted for technical assistance and cost share. Further coordination with the Conservation Corps will be important in assisting as many landowners as possible. Education and outreach including workshops with road associations and landowners will also occur.

This article written by Mary Ellen Dennis, Maine DEP. For more information Mary Ellen can be contacted at 207-287-7729 or mary-ellen.c.dennis@maine.gov

Case studies of Environmental Conflict Resolution

The Policy Consensus Initiative (PCI) and the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) have launched a web database of public policy case studies to highlight the value of collaborative practices in state government. There are twelve environmental cases ranging from negotiating TMDL's to siting a wind farm.

Check them out at http://www.policyconsensus.org/casestudies/casestudies_environment.html

(Continued from page 6)

fix needs to be. Also show them an example of what a drawing should look like – a real example.

Load reduction information is now required for 319 implementation projects – good idea to collect data when already out there doing survey. It will make report and grant application stronger. But be careful about putting the numbers out in public – put disclaimers, as there are so many assumptions with the various calculation methods. See <http://gis-server.tetrattech-ffx.com/stepl/> for guidance and calculators to use when collection this information.

Volunteer ID Tags. To help raise awareness and identify people, one suggestion is to issue ID tags. The tags are on a string or pin that has a picture of watershed on front and sponsors on back. Another idea is to put a flyer in car/on dashboard of watershed map indicating they are volunteers surveying watershed.

An idea to make meetings more fun – do door prizes for watershed survey training. Oftentimes, local nurseries will donate a few buffer plants or phosphorus-free fertilizer.

Report ideas:

Many times there is a long lag time between when volunteers turn in their results and when the report is completed. A few years ago the Americorps surveyed the volunteers and determined that they often wondered what had happened to their work. Suggestions included various ways to keep some contact like thank you notes, speaking at annual lake meeting, providing up date for lake association newsletter and so on.

Report – don't forget to highlight some good sites in the report (but someone pointed out we don't have a volunteer sheet for the gold star sites). Without the good sites highlighted the survey and report are very negative.

Report – include where people can get P-free fertilizer and soil test information.

Consider putting final report on web.

GPS use tips:

Pluses: really helps with back country sites where there are no telephone poles or other markers. Simplifies the map making.

Pit falls: If volunteers have different units with different settings, not knowing how to use them, and not all groups may have one.

Have volunteers provide coordinates rather than down load as everyone has different system (use Excel spread sheet). If going to use GPS units will want to put boxes for num-

(Continued on page 13)



3rd National Conference NPS I & E Programs

Details: October 20-23, 2003, Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
Cosponsored by: Chicago Botanic Garden & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Nonpoint source pollution begins -- and ends -- with each of us. "Information and education". . . "I & E". . . they're popular buzz phrases among those working to solve water pollution problems. What's behind this increasing attention to information and education? Also known as people pollution, nonpoint source pollution control relies on people changing behaviors. Quite simply, our message must be brought before -- and understood -- by the public in order for them to change. Many people have never been exposed to such terms as "nonpoint source pollution" (does your next-door neighbor know what it is?). But, when these same people come to understand the important role they can play in reducing pollution through relatively simple changes in their everyday actions and behaviors, we're making real progress.

In response to this need for better public appreciation and understanding of nonpoint source pollution, this 3rd National Conference on Nonpoint Source Pollution Information & Education Programs will provide a unique opportunity -- at a national scale -- to learn and share ideas on nonpoint source information and education strategies. The conference will explore practical, state-of-the-art examples of successful outreach programs through multi-media sessions. The conference's target audiences include nonpoint source, watershed, and TMDL program staff at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as environmental service groups that may work closely with local adult and youth education programs. Here is your opportunity to meet people with similar objectives and challenges who are concerned about building social capacity to address nonpoint source pollution, and who are working to develop creative information/education programs. Leave your "quiet"

side at home and come prepared to interact!

Conference topics will include social capacity building programs for nonpoint source pollution and TMDL programs, innovative utilization of outreach media, special events and community activities, volunteer monitoring for public awareness/education, effective outreach programs associated with demonstration projects, non-traditional outreach approaches, and program refinement and evaluation. The conference will emphasize projects that have included an evaluation component.

Three specialty pre-conference workshops on Monday, October 20 will provide in-depth training on social capacity building and social marketing approaches. The conference registration fee is approximately \$280 and includes many meals and social functions, including special tours and a candlelight dinner at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Our conference location and host is the Congress Plaza Hotel in downtown Chicago, offering exceptionally discounted rates for our group of \$114 single/\$124 double.

Although many of the conference presentations will be made by invited authors, a limited amount of program space has been reserved for exceptional contributed papers and posters that are results-oriented and directly relevant to the conference theme. To be considered for the conference program, authors should e-mail an abstract (400 words

(Continued on page 10)

Natural Approaches to Stormwater Management

Natural Approaches to Stormwater Management: Low Impact Development in Puget Sound. This is the most recent low impact development publication offered by the Puget Sound Action Team.

They compiled examples of individual practices, new and redevelopment projects, local government ordinances, and more from individuals and organizations who are using practices that better protect Puget Sound's water quality, fish habitat, and other resources. Visit: http://www.wa.gov/puget_sound/Publications/LID_studies/LID_approaches.htm

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Thanks for your help.



(Continued from page 9)

maximum) that succinctly describes their project and approach. All abstracts must be received by no later than June 23, 2003. Notification of acceptance/rejection is scheduled for July 25, 2003. By submitting an abstract, a prospective presenter agrees to prepare a PowerPoint oral presentation or poster display (indicate your preference with your abstract submission), as well as a manuscript (for oral presenters) for publication in the conference proceedings. Individuals that fail to submit their manuscript by the September 12, 2003 deadline will forfeit their opportunity to present at the conference. Authors of contributed papers and posters will be expected to cover all of their travel costs, as well as their registration fees.

The 2nd National Conference, held in May 2001 and also cosponsored by the U.S. EPA and the Chicago Botanic Garden, was a tremendous success and received high praise from those attending. If you attended that event, no coaxing on our part is likely needed. But if you didn't attend the last conference, please consider joining us this year!

To receive future conference announcements, and to submit your abstract for consideration (via e-mail), contact: Bob Kirschner, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, Illinois, 60022; e-mail: bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org

Stormwater Management in Cold Climates

Details: November 3-5, 2003. Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine

CALL FOR PRESENTORS!

Conference Overview

This first-of-its-kind conference focused specifically on the challenge of managing stormwater in cold climates is set in the charming and eclectic coastal city of Portland, Maine. We will bring together engineers, planners, municipal, state and federal government personnel, stormwater managers, natural resource professionals, contractors and developers to share approaches and experiences with the effective management of stormwater in cold climates. Special attention will be given to the NPDES Phase II stormwater regulations and the challenges that communities face in implementing them. Exhibitors and vendors offering storm-

water-related products and services will be featured in an exhibit area. The conference will include two days of plenary and concurrent breakout sessions for moderated presentations and panel discussions, field trips, pre-conference training, and ample time for exhibitor interaction and networking.

A registration brochure will be mailed in August, 2003. Please visit our website at www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/coldsw.html for conference information.

Conference Organizers:

Casco Bay Estuary Project
Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
Maine Coastal Program/ Maine State Planning Office in coordination with: the Center for Watershed Protection

Target Audience

Plenary sessions and concurrent breakout sessions will target three groups:

- 1) Designers and planners
- 2) Regulatory and municipal personnel
- 3) Contractors and developers

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Presentations for this conference are sought. Examples of specific topics include:

- State-of-the-art stormwater management designs for cold climates
- Stormwater Treatment Practice (STP) performance in cold climates
- Good-housekeeping/proper snow pack placement and deicing procedures
- Implementing low impact development techniques in cold climates
- Using stormwater as a resource
- Impacts to receiving waters (snow removal, deicers, quantity, etc.)
- Urban stream or watershed restoration (including retrofitting and in stream treatments)
- Funding mechanisms for municipal stormwater management
- Enhancing the aesthetic and habitat values of stormwater STPs
- Case studies exemplifying unique site-specific solutions
- European and Canadian cold climate applications
- Case studies that emphasize the importance of construction oversight and STP maintenance
- Community planning and stormwater management
- In general, case studies, plans, STPs, designs, and lessons learned in cold climates!

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

TO EXHIBIT:

Exhibit booths of 8' x10' and 8' x20' sizes will be offered for \$600 and \$900 fees, respectively. Go to www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/coldsw.html for detailed information and registration forms or call the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee at (207) 253-8020.

TO PRESENT:

Please submit an abstract and title for a 30-minute presentation to cumberlandswcd@me.nacdn.net with "abstract - stormwater conference" in the subject line. Or, submittals may be mailed to CCSWCD, 201 Main Street - Suite 6, Westbrook, Maine 04092. Abstracts should be 500-1,000 words in length and in MS Word format. Please include the presenter's name, title, affiliation, a brief bio (100 words max), mailing address, email address, telephone number, and fax number. Indicate the presentation's target audience (i.e. designers and planners, regulatory and municipal personnel, or contractors and developers.) Please also indicate whether the presentation has been given before, and if so, when and where.

Note: Presentation visuals (e.g. MS Powerpoint slides) must be completed and ready for submittal to conference organizers by October 1, 2003. Presenters will be responsible for the cost of conference registration and travel.

Deadline for Abstract Submission – June 27, 2003

Review and Notification

Presenters will be notified of receipt of their submittal via email. The conference planning committee will review all submittals. Presenters will be notified by the end of July of the status of their submittal.

Clean Air Act Reduces Acid Rain; Umaine Research Shows Recovery IN NE Remains Elusive

January 29, 2003

Researcher: Steve Kahl, Mitchell Center, 207-581-3286;
News writer: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- The federal Clean Air Act of 1990 appears to be successful in reducing two major types of air pollutants that contribute to acid rain, and signs of recovery are beginning to occur in lakes and streams in the Midwest and

East, according to a report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Steve Kahl, director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at the University of Maine, led the EPA research effort in New England and helped to lead the team that wrote the report. Katherine Webster, UMaine assistant professor of biological sciences, was a co-author of the report.

Researchers based their analysis on water quality data from five regions in the upper Midwest and East. Today, there are fewer acidic lakes and streams in the Adirondacks, the upper Midwest and the northern Appalachian plateau than there were in 1990. Nevertheless, those waters continue to be vulnerable to the effects of acid deposition. Their ability to buffer acidic precipitation has not significantly changed in the last decade, according to the report.

Data from about 100 lakes in Maine and another 286 in New England indicates that there has been little net change in the acid status of waters in that region.

"The report emphasizes that there are significant uncertainties in our understanding of processes related to recovery of acidic lakes, and that research needs to continue for us to understand the effectiveness of the Clean Air Act and any future amendments," says Kahl. "We've seen reductions in sulfate that are linked to Clean Air Act regulations. Sulfuric acid does not control the acidity of surface waters as it used to," he adds.

Further changes are likely to occur as Clean Air Act regulations on nitrogen in air pollution are implemented. Other conclusions reached in the report include:

- Acidity in eastern U.S. precipitation is at least double what it was in pre-industrial times, with rainfall in Pennsylvania and New York more acidic than that in New England and the Midwest.
- Although sulfuric acid levels have dropped in surface waters, nitric acid levels have not decreased.
- Levels of dissolved aluminum in lakes and streams have dropped slightly in some regions and remain unchanged in others. Dissolved aluminum concentrations are related to acidity. The metal can impair reproduction in fish and amphibians, although its actual biological consequences are unclear.
- Levels of calcium, magnesium and other acid buffering elements have dropped in lakes and streams for reasons that are unclear, and this change has offset some of the decrease in acidity that would have otherwise occurred.
- Dissolved organic compounds in water increased in every region and contributed natural acidity to surface waters.

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

Since climate change, forest growth and ecological processes can affect surface water chemistry, research is needed to fully understand the factors contributing to acidity in lakes and streams and the relationships with forest productivity and nutrients.

UMaine has worked closely with the EPA to monitor eastern lakes and streams and the environmental consequences of acidic deposition. Since 1982, EPA has contracted with UMaine to collect and analyze water samples for the national acid rain monitoring program. With additional support from EPA and other agencies, UMaine also continues to conduct acid rain research on land owned by the Champion Paper Co. in eastern Hancock County. As a result, the university maintains some of the longest running data sets on acid rain in the U.S.

The full EPA report is posted on UMaine's Senator George Mitchell Center's Web page, under "Publications." In addition to Kahl and Webster, authors of the report include John L. Stoddard of the U.S. EPA, Frank A. Deviney and James Webb of the University of Virginia, David R. DeWalle of Penn State University, Charles T. Driscoll of Syracuse University, Alan T. Herlihy of Oregon State University, James H. Kellogg of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and Peter S. Murdoch of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The 74-page report is titled Response of surface water chemistry to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and has the document number EPA/620/R-02/004.

EQIP Finalized - Looks like good partner to 319 Projects

The new EQIP rule has been finalized, and it is very similar to the version that had been proposed, despite various pressures placed on USDA. Like the proposal, it has 4 national priorities, and the first one reads:

"Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds, consistent with TMDL's where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and the conservation of ground and surface water resources."

The third priority is "Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land."

Maine Center For Invasive Aquatic Plants.

Dedicated to the preservation of Maine's aquatic ecosystems through the prevention of the spread of invasive aquatic plants

OUR GOALS

- To foster widespread awareness and understanding of the threat of invasive aquatic plants
- To generate a greater appreciation for Maine's native plant communities
- To provide a nexus for the sharing of information
- To be a catalyst for individual and collaborative action
- To promote networking and partnerships on all levels

OUR VISION . . .

- A clearinghouse for technical information and current research findings
- An interactive online forum for the sharing of resources, ideas, experiences, and local initiatives
- Funding to further the growth of statewide, municipal and grass-roots prevention initiatives in Maine
- Support for citizen based monitoring through training, technical assistance, certification, data coordination, etc.
- "Spreading the Word" through all viable means
- An on-line "virtual herbarium"
- Tracking and mapping current invasive plant infestations

The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants operates under the auspices of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

For more information about the Center, please contact the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program at (207) 225-2070 or vlmp@megalink.net



(Continued from page 8)

bers on sheet – one box per number so volunteer will notice if they failed to record all the numbers.

Stream/river surveys:

(lessons learned from Sunday River).

Biggest problem was on channel stability – thus reports contain a discussion on stream channels, which a lake survey would not have. Should also include discussion on flow.

Stream surveys will contain two types of sites and thus need to be coded and surveyed differently than lakes (1) stream bank sites (2) new channel sites – where the river is actually cutting.

The form also needs a column to record accessibility if surveying remote areas. There may be a big NPS problem but if you can't get to it might make it hard to install BMPs.

The Summer Milfoil Summit Friday, June 20

Lake Region High School Auditorium - Route 302 in
Naples, Maine

NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

AGENDA

- 8:30 Registration and refreshments
- 9:00 Welcome and Introduction – Peter Lowell, Lakes Environmental Association. What You Need to Know and How You Can Help
- 9:15 Maine and Invasive Aquatic Plants in the Year 2003 – Program Update. John McPhedran, DEP Invasive Species Program Manager
- 9:30 Update on the Pickerel Pond Hydrilla Infestation - Herbicides—strong medicine for big problems: What's the DEP's view on herbicide applications? Paul Gregory, Maine DEP
- 9:45 Stickers and Enforcement - The IF&W Viewpoint. Colonel Tim Peabody, Maine Warden Service
- 10:00 BREAK
- 10:15 Acting Locally – An Update on Local Programs and Possible Ordinances. Maggie Shannon, COLA Executive Director / Peter Lowell, LEA
- 10:30 The Spread of Invasives – An Update on Maine's Epidemic and Rates of Spread. Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Staff

10:45 Opportunity for Questions and Comments

11:15 Adjourn

11:30 Brown Bag Super Lunch - \$6 with advance order (email LEA)

12:30 Concurrent Training Sessions for Courtesy Boat Inspectors and Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification. ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR WORKSHOPS (email LEA)

Co-sponsored by the Congress of Lake Associations, Greater Portland Council of Governments, Lakes Environmental Association, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, Portland Water District, University of Maine George Mitchell Center and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

FMI Peter Lowell at the Lakes Environmental Association. (lakes@megalink.net) / 207-647-8580 / 102 Main Street, Bridgton 04009.

ALL YOU CAN EAT Maple Sugar Camp Meal

Fund Raiser for
Pelletier Island Camp Owners Assoc.
Pollution Control Project Fund

Place: Madawaska K of C Hall
Date: April 13th
Time: 10:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Cost: \$6.00 Per Person



Menu
Pea Soup,
Ham,
Patate de
Bernard,
Beans,
Ployes,
Creton,

A different way to raise funds to help support a 319 Grant Project, St. John Valley Style. (Pelletier Island is in Long Lake). Sometimes creativity is all it takes.

For more information on this project contact Ryan Pelletier, 207-543-7305.



EPA Honors Portage Lake for Reducing Pollution

Portage Lake - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has honored the town of Portage Lake for its work in reducing pollution entering the lake.

The town, one of 79 selected nationally, as a "Clean Water Partner for the 21st Century", was honored at a ceremony Tuesday, April 1, in Washington D.C. by Christine Whitman, the EPA Administrator.

The awards, part of the Year of Clean Water, are designed to recognize extraordinary actions taken by local governments to protect watersheds beyond requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The 2,471 acre Portage Lake is the centerpiece of the community as both a natural and an economic resource.

Alarmed by the lake's deteriorating water quality, Portage Lake residents contacted the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's regional office in 1998. A partnership was formed between the town, the Portage Lake Association, the Fish River Lake Association, the St. John Valley Resource Conservation and Development, Maine DEP, and the Maine Volunteer Leader Program.

A committee was formed to conduct a watershed survey to identify pollution sources, and steps were taken to address the identified problems.

A volunteer group planted a 700-foot vegetated buffer strip to reduce runoff from the parking lot at the town-owned beach. Best management practices to reduce runoff from roads and driveways are being implemented.

The state DEP's Small Community Grant Program is being used to address failing septic systems.

The town recently hired a new code enforcement officer to help landowners comply with the town's shoreland zoning ordinance to protect the lake.

The planning board is working on an ordinance to address development issues in the watershed.

Subsequent water quality monitoring by Maine Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Program has shown improvement in the lake's overall water quality. ###

Stormwater Compensation Fund Update

This update describes how the compensation funds collected for developments in two lake watersheds are being used.

There have been a number of significant projects in the Annabessacook and Cobbossee Lake watersheds, and \$109,200 were available in those accounts, mostly in Annabessacook. The Town of Winthrop and the Cobbossee Watershed District recently proposed a long term project to use these funds, and have been given a grant for the full amount.

The project involves purchase of a high-tech regenerative air street sweeper that the town will operate throughout the year, keeping fine sediment, and its attached phosphorus, off the streets of Winthrop and Monmouth so that it won't be washed into the lakes during intense storms. In past years Winthrop has only swept their streets once in the spring with a rented mechanical sweeper that left most of the fine material behind. Now they will be sweeping high priority streets (the most direct shots to Mill Stream and the lakes) at least 10 times a year, and lower priority streets at least 4 times a year.

They have ordered a state of the art Johnston 770, a high quality regenerative air sweeper that recycles its air stream, using the exhaust air to blast the pavement under the sweeper cowl, and sucking it back up, so there's virtually no discharge of dust and phosphorus laden air.

Basically, the compensation fund is paying for the sweeper and for a modest monitoring program to document (estimate) the amount of P removed from the streets as well as an education program for downtown property owners. The town is providing the labor to operate the sweeper, and funding to maintain it, as well as putting some of the funds it would normally have spent to rent a sweeper into a fund to replace it in 12 to 15 years. The watershed district is doing the monitoring and education, and evaluating, on a regular basis, the condition of the roads so that the sweepings can be timed to be most effective.

At a rate of \$10,000 per pound of phosphorus, this \$109,200 needs to mitigate at least 9 pounds and 2 pounds of annual phosphorus loading to Annabessacook and Cobbossee Lakes, respectively, in order to balance the extra phosphorus being discharged from the projects that paid the compensation fees. We conservatively estimate that we should be able to prevent at least 50 pounds, if not hundreds of pounds, of phosphorus loading each year with this effort, so it should be a big net gain for the lake.

For more information contact: Jeff Dennis, Maine DEP, 207-287-7847 or jeff.dennis@maine.gov



Calendar of Events

June 20, 2003. **The Summer Milfoil Summit**. Lake Region High School Auditorium - Route 302 in Naples, Maine. NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED – EVERYONE IS WELCOME. FMI contact Peter Lowell at lakes@megalink.net.

June 21. **Maine Congress of Lakes Association's Annual Conference.** University of Orono. FMI 1-877-254-2511.

June 28, 2003. **Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program Annual Conference.** Auburn Land Lab. FMI lwrma@megalink.net

July 28-31, 2003. **StormCon Water Quality Conference & Exposition.** San Antonio, TX. FMI www.stormcon.com

October 20-23, 2003. **3rd National NPS I & E Conference.** Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Cosponsored by: Chicago Botanic Garden & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. FMI Bob Kirschner, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, Illinois, 60022; e-mail: bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org

Nov. 3-5. **Stormwater Management in Cold Climates** Details: November 3-5, 2003. Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine. FMI www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/coldsw.html

Web Sites of Interest

Here's a website on low impact development and innovative stormwater management techniques that may be of interest: <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>

The Maine Aquatic Biodiversity Project website is up and running: www.mainebiodiversity.org <<http://www.mainebiodiversity.org>>

Resources Available

Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems. Available electronically from <<http://www.cwp.org>> Price: \$25. The Center for Watershed Protection's newest report is a comprehensive examination of more than 225 multi-disciplinary research studies documenting the impact of urbanization and the associated impervious cover on aquatic systems. Written in a clear, accessible style, Impacts is the Center's most extensive exploration of imperviousness to date, and reviews the available scientific data on the myriad ways urbanization influences hydrologic, physical, water quality, and biological indicators of aquatic health. The research distilled in this report was conducted in many different eco-regions, climatic zones and stream types. Weighing in at approximately 150 pages, Impacts includes more than 100 graphics and tables and is a must-read for watershed leaders, policy-makers and agency staff in watersheds across the country. Watch for hard copy version.

It's Not Too Late

The chair of The Groundwater Foundation's annual conference is still accepting proposals from potential presenters. "Water Supply Scarcity: Who Gets the Last Drop?" is the theme of the conference, which will be November 12-15 in Las Vegas. The deadline for proposals has been extended to June 16, so there's still time to send in your brilliant idea. For more info, including the call for presentations, see <http://www.groundwater.org/ProgEvent/conference.htm>.

This newsletter is prepared especially for those involved in nonpoint source pollution issues. It is funded through an EPA 319 Clean Water Act Grant. If you have any announcements, comments or items for the Nonpoint Source Times, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call or write:

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Clean water starts with you!



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